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CONTROL OF APOPTOSIS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for suppressing the expression of a selected apoptosis-related gene in a cell is disclosed. The method includes introducing into the cell a molecule including (1) a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to a site at or associated with the selected gene which site is present in a genome and (2) a modifying portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue, and wherein the repressor portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic. Molecules for use in the methods of the invention are provided. The repressor or modifying portion may be a portion of a histone deacetylase or DNA methylase or polypeptide capable of recruiting a histone deacetylase or DNA methylase. The nucleic acid binding portion may be a triplex forming oligonucleotide (TFO). The apoptosis-related gene may be Bcl-2. The methods and molecules may be useful in the treatment of cancer.